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Americans in Process; A Settlement Study. By Residents and Associates of the South End House. Edited by ROBERT A. WOODS. Pp. xii, 389. Price, \$1.50. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1902.

The residents and associates of South End House have completed another valuable settlement study of Boston's crowded districts. "Americans in Process" does for the North and West Ends what the "City Wilderness" did for the South End. Beginning with a brief geographical and historical sketch, showing how the island was transformed into mainland, and the gradual growth of the network of crooked streets which provided sanitary and building problems for future generations to solve, the decadence of old Boston is outlined. The North End lost its aristocratic population in 1775, but the West End prospered as a center of homes until after 1850. First the Irish, then lodging and boarding houses in the West End, and finally an invading host of foreigners drove away the American residents; the North End becoming a city of Italians, Jews, Portuguese and a residue of Irish; the West End, the same with some negroes and a few remaining Americans.

The efforts to improve sanitary and tenement house conditions, the means of livelihood of the various races, their crimes and misdemeanors, and the influence and extent of the two ancient faiths which dominate this region—all receive attention. Political conditions with the Irish in control have a peculiar significance for these districts. The descriptions of the leaders, and their means of maintaining control, are an addition to municipal literature on the subject. The chapter on Life's Amenities—the people in their playtime and holiday garb—is sympathetically written and full of interest. "The Child of the Stranger," also, shows what the public schools are doing for these children. Seventy-five per cent never reach the eighth grade. Half the children who leave the seventh grade in June, do not reappear in September. The girls marry very young and for them correct ideas of life and freedom from superstition are especially needed. Philanthropic agencies are treated under "Community of Interest."

The careful descriptions, successful choice of material and excellent maps give the reader a good idea of this new Boston. They do more, they show the citizens of other cities how much Boston has already done to improve conditions by satisfactory legislation for tenement houses, sanitation and the removal of vicious resorts; by removing sweatshops; and by providing parks, gymnasiums, baths and improved methods in public schools. At the same time the serious obstacles to a true Americanizing process are emphasized with a word of warning that assimilation is a two-edged sword and that the whole community is affected by conditions in the North and West Ends. This is illustrated by the close connection between Dorchester and North End politicians.

The main lines indicated for social progress are: strict laws for the residue of tramps and paupers who congregate in these regions, and for the disabled; every assistance for those with ability to rise, especially an allaying of racial prejudices which hamper the bright young Jew or Italian; and for the majority, the encouragement of all kinds of associations,—trades unions, clubs, neighborhood gatherings,—and above all, industrial training, especially for the children.

Of the people themselves, the negroes present the most serious problem, and they, with the off-scouring of other nationalities, will constitute the slums. The Irish advance in a body, and they have largely left these districts. The North End is becoming the Italian stronghold, the West End will soon be in the possession of Jews. Both races are characterized by a high degree of industry, sobriety and domestic peace. For one the goal of efforts is the simple joys of life; for the other, prosperity.

EMILY FOGG MEADE.

Philadelphia.